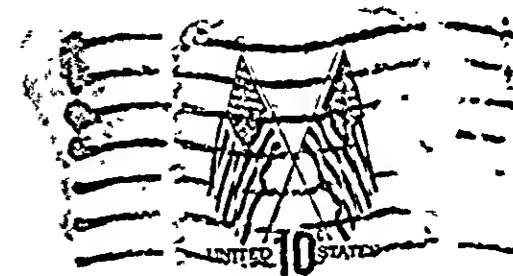


FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1202154-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1  
Page 31 ~ Duplicate;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X For this Page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



William Kunstler, Lawyer  
For Russell Means and Dennis Banks  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

b6  
b7C

9-18489-1

Dear Sir: If you and Banks  
and Means and others like  
you are at all concerned about  
your physical welfare, stay away  
from Pine Ridge and other Reser-  
vations. There are plenty of  
Indians who are waiting for  
the chance to pull the trigger  
and no advance warning will  
be given. This is not an idle  
threat.



File No. 9-1842

Date Received 5-20-74

From William M. Bunteler  
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes  
☐ No

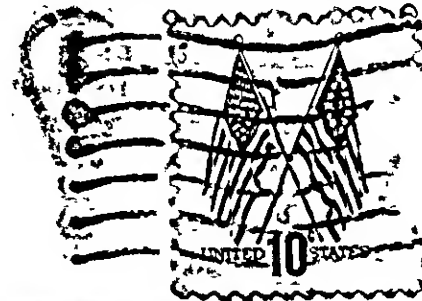
Receipt given ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Description:

Threatening Letter<sup>envelope</sup>  
to William M.  
Bunteler Postmarked  
April 26, 1974 sent Ben  
5/22/74 *whb*

AD

D-740528108 Q1 ND



William Kenneth, Lawyer  
For Russell Means and Dennis Banks  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

D-740528108 Q2 ND



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-NEW)

DATE: 5/17/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUB;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

On May 17, 1974, in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICHOL presiding, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter was dated 26 April, 1974, and postmarked U. S. Postal Service, South Dakota, 570.

The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. HURD who gave the envelope and letter to SA [REDACTED]

## LEADS

### MINNEAPOLIS

#### AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

1 Will transmit extortion letter to FBI Laboratory.

2 Conduct other appropriate extortion investigation.

2 - Minneapolis wkb  
(2) *Determine all persons who received letter. Those must be fingerprinted. Check Handbook and Submit Threat Letter to Bureau via airtel.*

9-1842-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

F B I

Date: 5/17/74

008

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT *Kital*  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI - *LRF*  
FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-*1842*NEW) (P)

UNSUB; WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM, EXTORTION.

~~FOR INFORMATION~~, BUREAU BEING ADVISED OF CAPTIONED  
MATTER INASMUCH AS PRESS PUBLICITY MAY BE RECEIVED.

ON MAY 17, 1974, IN U. S. DISTRICT COURT, ST. PAUL,  
MINN., USDJ FRED J. NICHOL PRESIDING, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER  
ANNOUNCED IN OPEN COURT THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER  
WHICH THREATENED HIS LIFE. LETTER, DATED APRIL 26, 1974, AND  
POSTMARKED U. S. POSTAL SERVICE, SOUTH DAKOTA, 570, STATES:

"DEER SIR:

"IF YOU AND BANKS AND MEANS AND OTHERS LIKE YOU  
ARE AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL WELFARE, STAY  
AWAY FROM PINE RIDGE AND OTHER RESERVATIONS. THERE  
ARE PLENTY OF INDIANS WHO ARE WAITING FOR THE CHANCE  
TO PULL THE TRIGGER AND NO ADVANCE WARNING WILL BE  
GIVEN. THIS IS NOT AN IDLE THREAT."

① - Minneapolis  
GRS:rfr  
(1)

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *6:30*b6  
b7C

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)MP 9-NEW  
PAGE 2

USDJ NICHOL REFERRED MATTER TO AUSA R. D. HURD, WHO  
TURNED OVER ENVELOPE AND LETTER TO FBI.

MINNEAPOLIS WILL FURNISH LETTER TO BUREAU <sup>7B1 Lahr</sup> ~~VIA AIRTEL~~.  
INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

END.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription May 20, 1974

On May 17, 1974, in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICHOL presiding, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter was dated 26 April, 1974, and postmarked U. S. Postal Service, South Dakota, 570.

The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and MEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

United States District Judge FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to Assistant United States Attorney R. D. HURD, who gave the envelope and letter to Special Agent [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Interviewed on 5/17/74 at St. Paul, Minnesota File # MP 9-1842 *4*

by SA [redacted] :wkb Date dictated 5/17/74

*orig. in EE*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842)

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT: CHANGED  
UNSUB;  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION

Title being changed to add the names of victims  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal Judge.

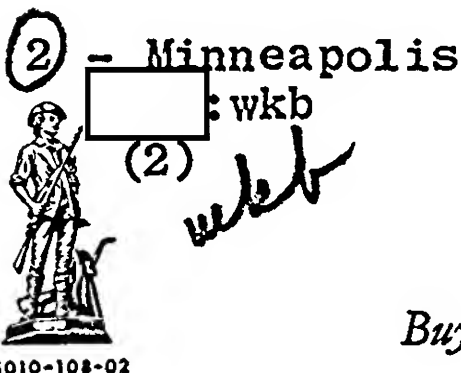
AUSA R. D. HURD, who also handled the extortion letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

## LEAD

### MINNEAPOLIS

Will inform Identification Division of above location of fingerprints which should be located and utilized for elimination purposes in the event latent fingerprints located on extortion letter of victims in captioned title




*Expedite letter to  
Bureau - originate  
& xerox copies  
also xerox  
for file*

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the

9-1842-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1974	



SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842)

5/20/74

SUPERVISOR

b6  
b7C

CHANGED

UNSUB;

DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION

Title being changed to add the names of victims  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his application investigation in connection with his appointment as Federal Judge.

AUSA R. D. HURD, who also handled the extortion letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS

Will inform Identification Division of above location of fingerprints which should be located and utilized for elimination purposes in the event latent fingerprints located on extortion letter of victims in captioned title

② - Minneapolis  
 wkb  
(2) wkb

*Why wasn't  
letter sent  
to Lab  
for prints*

9-1842-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
<b>MAY 20 1974</b>	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (9- )

DATE: 5/20/74

FROM :



b6  
b7C

SUBJECT: Unsub;  
Wm Knutsler-Victim  
Information Concerning

On 5/20/74, Robert Decker, President, Bemidji State College, advised that his wife had received a phone call from a unknown person at 2:25 PM, 5/18/74, who threatened to shoot Wm Knutsler if he spoke at the college Monday nite, 5/20/74.

[ ] [ ] advised that at the above time and date an unknown caller called the [ ] residence at Bemidji and stated "Is this the home of the president of the teachers college". She said "yes it is" and he said "may I speak to him". She - "He is not here, may I have him call you when he returns?" He - "Just tell him Knutsler will be shot if he speaks here Monday night". [ ] described the caller's voice as an elderly sounding, sort of quivering voice. Also, that the ~~xxxx~~ voice reminded her of an Indian's voice, however, ~~wh~~ she could not say it was or wasn't an Indian. There was no background noise. She believed it to be a local call.

Supervisor [ ] was advised of the above 5/20/74, AM, and SA [ ] at the St. Paul RA for the purpose of notifying the court and the victim of the threat inasmuch as he is scheduled to speak at the Hobson Memorial Ballroom, Bemidji State College, 8:00 PM, 5/20/74.

COP [ ], Bemidji, and Sheriff Tom Tolman, Bemidji, were both advised of the above information 5/20/74, AM.

President Decker advised that ~~an~~ he believes the person who called and referred to Bemidji State as a teachers college is probably an ~~xxxx~~ older individual because the college has not been known as a teachers college since the 1950's.

[ ]  
(1)

9-1842-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 21 1974	
MAY 21 1974	
FBI-MINNEAPOLIS	



5/22/74

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY;  
JOHN C. GORDON, ROOM 2266  
GENERAL CRIMES UNIT,  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED  
UNSUB;  
DERRIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM H. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES LEANS - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION  
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Title changed to include additional victims LEANS  
and BANKS as reflected in details of letter.

Re Minneapolis nitel to the Director, May 17, 1974.

On May 17, 1974, in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Judge FRED J. NICCOL presiding, Defense Attorney WILLIAM H. KUNSTLER announced in open court he had just received a letter which threatened his life. This letter, dated 26 April, 1974 and postmarked Postal Service, South Dakota, 570 reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

If you and BANKS and LEANS and others like you are at all concerned about your physical welfare, stay away from Pine Ridge and other Reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given. This is not an idle threat."

4 - Bureau RM  
① - Minneapolis  
ALL:pxb  
(3) *ack*

9-1842-7

*Russell*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1974	
FBI - MINNEAPOLIS	

*[Signature]*

b6  
b7C

LP 9-1842

Judge NICEOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. MURD who turned the original letter and envelope over to the FBI for investigation in relation to the extortion matter.

Enclosed herewith for the Laboratory is the original letter and envelope and one Xerox copy of the letter and envelope.

On May 20, 1974, U. D. District Judge FRED J. NICEOL, in chambers, advised that he preferred not to be fingerprinted for elimination purposes, pointing out that his fingerprints are on file as a result of his application in connection with his appointment as a Federal Judge. Judge Nichol is described as white male, date of birth 3/19/12.

AUSA R. D. MURD who also handled the extortion letter made the same comments, stating his fingerprints are on file in connection with his application as Assistant United States Attorney. He is described as white male, date of birth 3/5/41.

Defense attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out that he too preferred to not be fingerprinted and that he was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

The Laboratory is requested to expedite comparison of the handwriting on the letter and envelope with the anonymous letter file and cause a latent fingerprint examination to be conducted, noting the above individuals are known to have handled both the envelope and the letter.

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT PIERRE AND RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will display copy of above referred to letter and envelope to officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Rosebud and Pine Reservations in an effort to determine if the handwriting appearing thereon appears familiar to them as being identical to the handwriting of anyone known to them.

MP 9-1842

AT PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact postal authorities in an effort to further identify the location at which this letter may have been mailed.

\*3\*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Kunstler sent letter threat

U.S. District Judge Fred Nichol today asked the FBI to investigate a threat mailed to William Kunstler, a defense attorney at the Wounded Knee trial in St. Paul.

Kunstler told the judge

this morning that he received the unsigned letter yesterday. It also threatens co-defendants Dennis Banks and Russell Means.

The letter, mailed from South Dakota and carrying an April 26 postmark,

warns them to "stay away from Pine Ridge and other reservations. There are plenty of Indians who are waiting for the chance to pull the trigger and no advance warning will be given...."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4A Minneapolis Star  
Minneapolis, MN.

Date: May 17, 1974

Edition: Evening

Author:

Editor: Robert C. King

Title: William Kunstler:  
Extortion

Character:

or

Classification: 9-1842 - 8

Submitting Office Minneapolis

☐ Being Investigated

*Orig sent 5/24/74*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 21 1974	
FBI - MINN	

**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

Date: May 30, 1974

Re: UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION  
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

FBI File No.

Lab. No.

D-740528108 ND

Specimens received 5/28/74

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SD  
570 PM 26 APR 1974," bearing the handwritten  
address "William Kunstler, Lawyer For Russell Means  
and Dennis Banks Saint Paul, Minnesota"
- Q2 Sheet of lined paper bearing handwritten message  
beginning "Dear Sir: If you and Banks and Means ...."

**Result of examination:**

The questioned specimens were not identified  
in the Anonymous Letter File. Appropriate copies have been  
added thereto.

No watermarks or indented writing of value,  
was found on the questioned specimens.

Q1 and Q2 were photographed and will be  
returned separately.

9-1842-9



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

Date: May 30, 1974

From: Director, FBI

Re: UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION  
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

FBI File No.

Lab. No. D-740528108 ND

Examination requested by: Minneapolis

Reference: Airtel 5/22/74

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

Q1 and Q2 will be returned with the results  
of the fingerprint examination.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

9-1842-10  
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....  
JUN 3 1974

OLIS

DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE  
PAGE (S) INFORMATION IN  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

b6  
b7C

F B I

Transmit in \_\_\_\_\_

Via \_\_\_\_\_

Airtel

(Type in plaintext or code)

(Precedence)

6-3-74

(Date)

To: SAC, Minneapolis (9-1842)

✓ From: Director, FBI

UNSUB.;  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Reurairtel 5-22-74, submitting envelope, Q1, and one-  
page letter, Q2, for laboratory and latent print examinations.

Q1 and Q2 further described in separate Laboratory  
report.

No latent prints of value developed on enclosed specimens.

Enc. (2)

(This line for LEFT MARGIN.)

(Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN.)

(Do not type below this line.)

9-1842-11

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

*[Signature]*

b6  
b7C

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA),  
subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent  
furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent  
alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul,  
Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this  
letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this  
letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated  
he had no information concerning this letter which would assist  
the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842 - 12  
by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] :klk Date dictated 6/5/74

orig. in EE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Agency Special Officer,  
subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent  
furnished the following information:

b6  
b7C

[redacted] advised she was familiar with the recent  
alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul,  
Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this  
letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this  
letter were unfamiliar to her. [redacted] in addition stated  
she had no information concerning this letter which would assist  
the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-13  
by [redacted] BA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

*orig. in EE*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Criminal Investigator, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

b6  
b7c

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-14  
by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

*orig. in EE*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

JOSEPH JACOBS, Chief of Police, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

JACOBS advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, JACOBS stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. JACOBS in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-15

by SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74 b6 b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

*orig. in EE*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 11, 1974

[redacted] Criminal Investigator, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), subsequent to the identification of the interviewing Agent furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised he was familiar with the recent alleged letter received by WILLIAM KUNSTLER at St. Paul, Minnesota, concerning the trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

After reviewing the handwriting sample of this letter, [redacted] stated that the characteristics of this letter were unfamiliar to him. [redacted] in addition stated he had no information concerning this letter which would assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in their investigation.

b6  
b7C

Interviewed on 5/30/74 at Pine Ridge, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842-16

by [redacted] SA [redacted] JR. [redacted] klk Date dictated 6/5/74

*orig. in EE*

MP 9-1842

392 Federal Building, U. S. Court House  
110 South Fourth Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

June 20, 1974

Honorable William F. Clayton  
United States Attorney  
Federal Building  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

Attention: Assistant United States  
Attorney R. D. Hurd

Dear Mr. Clayton:

Re conversation between Special Agent [redacted]  
[redacted] and Assistant United States Attorney R. D. Hurd on  
June 20, 1974.

b6  
b7C

Per referenced conversation, Mr. Hurd advised that he had approached Federal District Judge Fred J. Nichol, who is currently in St. Paul, Minnesota, trying the case of Wounded Knee defendants Russell Charles Means and Dennis James Banks, concerning the obtaining of two petitions which had been entered into evidence from the court in order that the FBI could submit these to the FBI Laboratory for a handwriting comparison. This handwriting comparison between the petitions and the letter received by William M. Kunstler, attorney for Russell Means, threatening his life and the life of defendants Means and Banks would be made to determine if any of those persons whose signatures appeared on either of the petitions could possibly have written the threatening letter.

Mr. Hurd advised that in conversation with Judge Nichol, Judge Nichol had indicated that he had no objections to releasing the petitions from evidence; however, the Government prosecutors would have to obtain defense counsel's permission. Mr. Hurd further advised that to date he has been unable to obtain permission from defense counsel.

Minneapolis

wkb

9-1842-17

It is requested that you maintain contact with defense counsel and attempt to gain permission for the release from evidence of these petitions so that they may be expeditiously forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate examinations and comparisons.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH H. TRIMBACH  
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

DATE: 6/28/74

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: UNSUB;  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

b6  
b7C

Re Minneapolis airtel to Bureau dated 5/22/74.

On 5/28/74 Captain of Police [REDACTED]  
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Police Officer [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and Tribal Police Officer, Rosebud Police  
Department, Rosebud, South Dakota, [REDACTED] could  
not identify the writer of a note which was sent to  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER in a letter postmarked 4/26/74  
threatening to kill KUNSTLER, MEANS, and BANKS if they  
set foot on the Reservation.

2 - Minneapolis  
[REDACTED] sks  
(2) S

*[Handwritten signature/initials]*

9-1842-19

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 3 1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

[REDACTED]



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

DATE: 6/27/74

FROM : SA [REDACTED] JR.

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;

DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM  
EXTORTION - WOUNDED KNEE RELATED

Reference Minneapolis airtel to Director dated 5/22/74.

On 5/24/74, Special Agent [REDACTED] Minneapolis Division, was requested by this writer to obtain the original copies of petitions entitled "Resolution Of Citizens Of The District Of South Dakota dated 3/3/73, and 3/4/73" from United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota. As related to Special Agent [REDACTED] several signatures which are attached to both of these resolutions bear a resemblance to the extortion letter received by captioned victims.

b6  
b7C

Several interviews have been conducted at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, of officials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) concerning captioned matter with negative results.

If feasible, it is requested that the original copies presently entered into evidence, United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, of the resolutions dated 3/3/74, and 3/4/74, be obtained and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, Document Section, for comparison purposes in connection with captioned matter.

6 Minneapolis  
[REDACTED] klk Klk  
(2)



5010-108-02

9-1842-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/14/74

[redacted] United States Post Office, Pierre, South Dakota, was contacted regarding the postmark on an envelope postmarked 26 April, 1974, addressed to WILLIAM KUNSTLER, lawyer for RUSSELL MEANS and DENNIS BANKS, St. Paul, Minnesota. The zip code on the postmark was 570.

[redacted] stated that a letter with that postmark zip code on it had to be sent from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or the nearby vicinity. He stated that zip code 570 and 571 includes the area of South Dakota within the boundary line extending from Brookings, South Dakota, west to Volga, south to Madison, west to the U.S. 81 Junction, and then south to Unityville and then south to Yankton, and east to the Iowa border. [redacted] advised that the letter sent to KUNSTLER could not have been sent from any other location than a town or city within the boundaries which he set out. He stated that the letter could not have been sent from any Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

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Interviewed on 6/4/74 at Pierre, South Dakota File # MP 9-1842 -21  
by SA [redacted] sks Date dictated 6/10/74

*mg in EE* 1

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE <b>8/14/74</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/17/74 - 8/13/74</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM; WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM; RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>wkb</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>EXTORTION</b>	

REFERENCE

Re Minneapolis airtel to Director, 5/22/74.

- P -

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Reporting period in this matter is excessive due to attempts to obtain items of evidence now introduced in court at St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Wounded Knee leadership case. This evidence is felt to be needed for the purpose of comparing handwriting by the FBI Laboratory.

A copy of this report is being provided to U. S. Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, inasmuch as they are currently prosecuting Wounded Knee leadership trials.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES					
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:					<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">L/c</div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 80px;"></div>	
4 - Bureau (9-57729)									
1 - United States Attorney, Minneapolis, Minnesota									
1 - United States Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota									
③ - Minneapolis (9-1842)									
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><i>[Signature]</i></div>									
Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations				
Agency					<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 80px;"></div>				
Request Recd.									
Date Fwd.									
How Fwd.									
By									

9-1842-22

MP 9-1842

Four copies of this report being provided to Bureau due to Wounded Knee involvement and Bureau's possible desire to disseminate to the Department.

LEADS

MINNEAPOLIS

AT PINE RIDGE, ROSEBUD AND SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Will contact logical sources in an attempt to ascertain who may have sent the extortion letter to Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER.

AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Will maintain contact with Assistant U. S. Attorneys trying Wounded Knee case in an attempt to gain release of petitions now entered in evidence and submit these to FBI Laboratory for handwriting comparison.

B\*

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

## Report of:

## Date:

[REDACTED]  
AUGUST 14, 1974

Office: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

## Field Office File #:

9-1842

Bureau File #: 9-57729

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## Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM

## Character:

EXTORTION

## Synopsis:

On 5/17/74, in USDC, St. Paul, Minnesota, Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in open court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. USDJ FRED J. NICHOL referred the matter to AUSA R. D. HURD, who provided the envelope and letter to a Special Agent of the FBI for investigation. On 5/20/74, USDJ NICHOL, AUSA HURD and Attorney KUNSTLER, all of whom had handled the extortion letter and envelope, declined to be fingerprinted; however, provided identifying information and also stated that they had previously been fingerprinted. Negative results of FBI Latent Fingerprint examination and anonymous letter file set forth. Interviews of BIA Special Officer and Police, Pine Ridge, South Dakota, advise they have no knowledge of who may have sent KUNSTLER an extortion letter. U. S. Postal authorities, Pierre, South Dakota, advise postmark bearing partial Zip Code 570 includes an area in and around Sioux Falls, South Dakota. No suspects developed; investigation continuing.

- P -

## Details:

This matter was predicated upon receipt of a complaint from Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER to Assistant U. S. Attorney (AUSA) RICHARD D. HURD, prosecuting Wounded Knee trials at St. Paul, Minnesota.

MP 9-1842

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at St. Paul, Minnesota:

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On May 20, 1974, U. S. District Judge (USDJ)  
FRED J. NICHOL in chambers advised that he would prefer not to  
be fingerprinted for elimination fingerprint purposes and  
pointed out that his fingerprints are filed as a result of his  
application investigation in connection with his appointment  
as Federal Judge.

AUSA RICHARD D. HURD, who also handled the extortion  
letter, made the same comment that his fingerprints are on  
file in connection with his application as Assistant United  
States Attorney.

Defense Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER pointed out  
that he, too, preferred not to be fingerprinted and that he  
was fingerprinted on numerous occasions as a member of the  
U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, Marine Corps Serial  
Number 12029657, and Officer Serial Number 0-1633347.

MP 9-1842

By communication dated June 3, 1974, FBI Laboratory advised that no latent prints of value had been located on Q1 or Q2.

MP 9-1842

On June 20, 1974, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at St. Paul, Minnesota:

AUSA RICHARD D. HURD was advised that the possibility existed that certain signatures contained on two petitions which had been entered into evidence at the Wounded Knee leadership trial of DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS may be identical with the handwriting on the extortion note and envelope sent to Attorney WILLIAM KUNSTLER. Mr. HURD was requested to contact Federal District Judge FRED J. NICHOL and request that the original of two petitions entitled, "Resolution of Citizens of the District of South Dakota," dated March 3, 1973, and March 4, 1973, be released from evidence in order that the FBI Laboratory may conduct the appropriate handwriting examinations.

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Mr. HURD advised that in his conversations with Judge NICHOL, Judge NICHOL had stated that he had no objection to releasing the petitions from evidence; however, the Government prosecutors would have to obtain defense counsel's permission. Mr. HURD advised that he had been unable to gain this permission from defense counsel to date.

MP 9-1842

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Rosebud, South Dakota:

On May 28, 1974, Captain of Police [redacted]  
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Police Officer [redacted]  
and Tribal Police Officer [redacted] Rosebud Police Department, Rosebud,  
South Dakota, [redacted] could not identify the writer of a  
note which was sent to WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER in a letter  
postmarked April 26, 1974, threatening to kill KUNSTLER,  
MEANS and BANKS if they set foot on the Reservation.

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Contact has been maintained on a daily basis with  
the U. S. Attorney's Office, Sioux Falls, South Dakota,  
primarily with AUSA HURD and AUSA [redacted] who are  
currently prosecuting Wounded Knee leadership cases at St. Paul,  
Minnesota, and to date defense counsel has not agreed to  
release original petitions and it does not appear that they  
intend to do so.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLI<sup>s</sup> [REDACTED] (P) DATE: 8/23/74

FROM : SA [REDACTED] JR.

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Dates of Contact	
8/1/74, 8/14/74, 8/22/74	
File #s on which	when CI provides positive information)
89-143 ([REDACTED])	ET AL)
42-12124 ([REDACTED])	
9-1842 (UN <sup>s</sup> UB <sup>s</sup> ; DENNI <sup>s</sup> JAME <sup>s</sup> BANK <sup>s</sup> - VICTIM)	
157-3726 ([REDACTED])	
157-3783 (UN <sup>s</sup> UB <sup>s</sup> ; EM - AIM)	
70-8520 ([REDACTED])	
Purpose and results of contact	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STATISTIC  See substantive file	
<input type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE ASSIGNMENT GIVEN (Ghetto only)	
Has informant shown any indication of emotional instability, unreliability or furnishing false information? <u>NO</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact, including information concerning narcotics.	Coverage <u>SAME</u>
PERSONAL DATA	

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b7D7 - Minneapolis<sup>s</sup>

(1 - 89-143)

(1 - 42-12124)

(1) - 9-1842)

(1 - 157-3726)

(1 - 157-3783)

(1 - 70-8520)

[REDACTED] klk KLR

(7)

9-1842-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 26 1974	
FBI-MINNEAPOLIS	

PE

MP 89-143

157-3783

Source advised he is not familiar with [redacted] of California.

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157-3726

Source advised he is not familiar with [redacted]

70-8520

Source advised [redacted], also known as [redacted] is presently in the State Penitentiary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, serving a state sentence along with his brother, [redacted]

42-12124

Source advised he is not acquainted with [redacted]

9-1842

Source advised he is not familiar with any extortion attempts upon DENNIS JAMES BANKS, WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER, and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS. Source advised if there was any information concerning this extortion, people would be talking about it and that is the reason he has not heard of anything concerning it.

89-143

Source advised that he was told by [redacted] prior to his death that [redacted] JR., was in the U-haul van at the time of the shooting of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agents at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Source stated he will attempt to ascertain [redacted] and [redacted], also known as [redacted] in connection with the FBI shooting at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

TO: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (P)

FROM: SA JR.

Date prepared  
8/23/74

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b7D

SUBJECT:   
Date received 8/22/74  
Received from (name or symbol number)

Received by  
SA JR.

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☒ in person ☒ by telephone ☐ by mail ☐ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:  
Date

Dictated 8/23/74 to

Transcribed 8/23/74

Authenticated  
by Informant

Date of Report

8/23/74

Date(s) of activity

8/1/74, 8/14/74, 8/22/74

Brief description of activity or material

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT AND RELATED CASES

File where original is located if not attached

\* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (\*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.  
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by on date

Remarks:

7 - Minneapolis  
(1 - 89-143)  
(1 - 42-12124)  
(1) - 9-1842)  
(1 - 157-3726)  
(1 - 157-3783)  
(1 - 70-8520)

klk

(7)

Block Stamp

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

AUG 27 1974

FBI - MINNEAPOLIS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (9-1842) (P)

DATE: 9/17/74

FROM : SA [REDACTED] JR.

SUBJECT: UNSUB;  
DENNIS J. BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM .  
EXTORTION  
OO: MINNEAPOLIS

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Reference Minneapolis report of Special Agent (SA)  
[REDACTED] 8/14/74.

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] JR., at Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Several contacts have been made with logical sources in an attempt to ascertain who may have sent the extortion letter to captioned victims. No logical information has been obtained to date and due to the fact of the refusal by the defense to provide identifying information to assist the FBI in their investigation, no further investigation or contacts will be made by the Rapid City Resident Agency regarding captioned matter.

② - Minneapolis  
[REDACTED] klk kkk  
(2)



5010-108-02

O-FORM

REC'D 11/12/74  
RTD. 11/14/74  
RPT. BY 11/20/74

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan  
Awaiting Release of Possible Evidence W.K. Leadership Trial

9-1842-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 17 1974	
MINNEAPOLIS	

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE <b>11/18/74</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/23/74 - 11/14/74</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM; WILLIAM M. KUNTZLER - VICTIM; RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 30px;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>dlk</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>EXTORTION</b>	

REFERENCE:

Minneapolis report of SA  dated 8/14/74.

(P\*)

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A copy of this report is being provided to the U.S. Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, inasmuch as they have responsibility and are interested in Wounded Knee-related cases.

Four copies of this report are being provided to the Bureau due to the Wounded Knee involvement and Bureau's possible desire to disseminate this information to the Department.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES					
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE									
4 - Bureau (9-57729) 1 - USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota ② - Minneapolis (9-1842) <i>ack</i>								Searched Serialized Indexed Filed	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations				
Agency									
Request Recd.									
Date Fwd.									
How Fwd.									
By									

9-1842-26

All logical leads have been covered in this matter with the exception of submission to the Laboratory of the original of a petition entitled, "Resolution of Citizens of the District of South Dakota". This petition remains in the custody of U. S. District Court, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as evidence which was introduced during the MEANS and BANKS leadership trial at St. Paul, Minnesota. Inasmuch as appeals may be lengthy, this matter is being placed in a pending-inactive status until conclusion of all appeals or until such time as items of evidence can be released.

Contacts have been made with logical sources in South Dakota and Minneapolis in an attempt to ascertain the identity of the person preparing the extortion note. No information has been developed to date by any source familiar with the American Indian Movement or in a position to supply such information of a positive nature.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
1 - USA, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Report of: [REDACTED]

Office: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Date: NOVEMBER 18, 1974

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b7C

Field Office File #: 9-18420

Bureau File #: 9-57729

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNTZLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis: On September 16, 1974, U. S. District Judge FREDERICK J. NICHOL dismissed all charges against DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS concerning their involvement at the Wounded Knee takeover. All evidence in the custody of U. S. District Court was returned to Clerk of Court's Office, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, pending appeals. During September, October and November, members of U. S. Attorney's Office, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, have advised that no disposition has been made of any evidence in the MEANS or BANKS case. A formal motion for appeal was filed by the Government concerning dismissal of charges.

(P\*)

DETAILS:

On September 16, 1974, at St. Paul, Minnesota, Federal District Judge FREDERICK J. NICHOL accepted a motion of dismissal from the defendants and dismissed all remaining charges against DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS.

On October 1, 1974, [REDACTED] Assistant U. S. Attorney, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, advised that all evidence including a petition entitled, "Resolution of Citizens of the District of South Dakota", dated March 3 and March 4, 1973, were still in the custody of the Clerk of Court at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

On November 6, 1974, Departmental Attorney [redacted] advised that the U. S. Department of Justice was definitely filing an appeal with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, St. Louis, Missouri, concerning Judge NICHOL's dismissal order of September 16, 1974.

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On November 13, 1974, Assistant U. S. Attorney [redacted] was contacted and advised that as yet no decision has been made in relation to evidence being held in connection with the Wounded Knee leadership trial of DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS; however, no disposition of the evidence would probably be made until the conclusion of the Government's appeal.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE <b>5/23/75</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/10/74 - 5/23/75</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUB; DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM; WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM; RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	TYPED BY <b>jmf</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>EXTORTION</b>	

REFERENCE:Minneapolis report of SA  11/18/74.b6  
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- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

A copy of this report is being provided to USA Sioux Falls, South Dakota, inasmuch as they have responsibility for Wounded Knee related cases.

Four copies of this report are being provided to the Bureau due to the Wounded Knee involvement and the Bureau's interest in Wounded Knee related matters.

All prior Minneapolis reports are being referenced in the first paragraph of the details at the specific request and the

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

## COPIES MADE:

- 4 - Bureau (9-57729)  
1 - USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
1 - Minneapolis (9-1842)

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By	<b>DO NOT DESTROY</b>			
	<b>PENDING LITIGATION</b>			

Notes

MP 9-1842

administrative assistance of the United States Attorneys.

The length of time since the last Minneapolis report is lengthy, however, contact has been maintained with the United States Attorneys in Minneapolis and Sioux Falls.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
1 - USA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Report of:

Date:

May 23, 1975

Office: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Field Office File #: 9-1842

Bureau File #: 9-57729

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
DENNIS JAMES BANKS - VICTIM;  
WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER - VICTIM;  
RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS - VICTIM

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Character:

EXTORTION

Synopsis:

On 5/23/75, AUSA [REDACTED] JR., Minneapolis, Minnesota, declined prosecution of this matter.

- C -

DETAILS:

Reference is made to Minneapolis report of SA [REDACTED] dated August 14, 1974, and Minneapolis report of SA [REDACTED] dated November 18, 1974.

On May 23, 1975, SA [REDACTED] Minneapolis Division, and Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [REDACTED] JR., Minneapolis, Minnesota, discussed the prosecutive merit of the above entitled case. During this conversation, SA [REDACTED] advised Mr. [REDACTED] as follows:

On May 17, 1974, while in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, during the Wounded Knee leadership trial of DENNIS JAMES BANKS and RUSSELL CHARLES MEANS, Attorney WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER announced in court that he had just received a letter which threatened his life. Investigation determined that this letter was postmarked from Sioux Falls on April 26, 1974. Mr. KUNSTLER and other defendants threatened in this letter were uncooperative with the FBI's investigation. Extensive investigation by the FBI has failed to develop any latent fingerprints of value on the extortion letter and no logical suspects have been developed.

It was also pointed out to Mr. [REDACTED] that on the morning of May 17, 1974, when Mr. KUNSTLER first announced this threat, defendant MEANS had failed to appear in court for the opening session

MP 9-1842

and it was apparent that this may possibly have been a delaying tactic on the part of Mr. KUNSTLER.

After being advised of the above information, Mr. [ ] declined prosecution in the above matter due to the lack of logical suspects and the fact that a period of approximately three weeks had transpired from the date the letter was mailed until it was reported to the FBI by the victim.

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